

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 19, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 17, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1688

Introduced by Senator Bowen
(Principal coauthor: Senator Alquist)
(Coauthor: Senator Torlakson)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Bogh, Garcia, and Maze)

February 24, 2006

An act to add and repeal Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) of Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to foster care, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1688, as amended, Bowen. Foster care: instruction and education pilot project.

Existing law declares the duty of the state to care for and protect the children that it places into foster care. Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services has various powers and duties relating to ensuring that the needs of foster children are met by local child welfare agencies and foster care providers.

This bill would require the State Department of Social Services to contract with an entity with specified qualifications to establish, until January 1, 2011, a foster care parent and child home instruction and education pilot project, as specified in the bill. The bill would set forth the purposes of the pilot project, including the duties of the department and the contracting entity, with respect to the operation of

the pilot project and the development of materials and curriculum. This bill would require the department, in consultation with the Legislative Analyst's Office, to establish the criteria by which to evaluate the pilot project. The bill would require the department to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot project and submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2011.

This bill would appropriate \$50,000 from the General Fund to the department to implement the bill.

This bill would become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and be repealed as of January 1, 2012.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040)
2 is added to Part 4 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions
3 Code, to read:

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5 CHAPTER 1.5. FOSTER CARE PARENT AND CHILD HOME
6 INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATION

7

8 16040. (a) (1) The State Department of Social Services shall
9 contract with an entity with the qualifications specified in
10 paragraph (2) to establish a foster care parent and child home
11 instruction and education pilot project in accordance with this
12 chapter.

13 (2) The qualified entity shall meet all of the following criteria:

14 (A) It shall have statewide experience in the training,
15 education, and evaluation of children three to five years of age,
16 and be approved by Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool
17 Youngsters, USA (HIPPY USA) to use the curriculum and
18 materials described in this section.

19 (B) It shall provide national and international research,
20 demonstrating the academic and behavioral benefits of the home
21 instruction approach for foster and at-risk families.

22 (C) It shall implement a multiyear program that utilizes
23 curriculum and materials described in this section, designed
24 specifically for preschoolage children.

1 (b) The pilot project shall be conducted in two counties that
2 agree to participate, other than Los Angeles County.

3 (c) The purposes of the pilot project shall be as follows:

4 (1) To empower foster parents as the primary educators of *the*
5 foster children in their home.

6 (2) To ensure the foster parents' involvement in school and
7 community life, so as to maximize the chances of successful
8 early school experiences for children three to five years of age.

9 16042. The pilot project shall use specialized materials,
10 curriculum, and books, developed by HIPPY USA, and designed
11 to strengthen children's cognitive and reading skills, and social
12 and emotional development. The project shall promote, at a
13 minimum, the following objectives:

14 (a) Helping foster parents to recognize their role as their foster
15 children's first and most influential teachers.

16 (b) Strengthening of the community at large by empowering
17 foster parents.

18 (c) Preparing foster children for school.

19 (d) Allowing foster parents to bond with their foster children.

20 16044. The qualified entity described in subdivision (a) of
21 Section 16040 shall assist the department in developing,
22 producing, and distributing project materials, curriculum, and
23 books, and shall offer other technical assistance to the
24 department as necessary.

25 16046. (a) Before the qualified entity described in
26 subdivision (a) of Section 16040 begins to provide services, the
27 department shall establish the elements of an evaluation, identify
28 the measurable objectives to be evaluated, and have the
29 procedures in place for data collection. In completing these tasks,
30 the department shall consult with the Legislative Analyst's
31 Office. The pilot project shall terminate on January 1, 2011. The
32 department shall prepare a report evaluating the effectiveness of
33 the pilot project and shall submit the report to the appropriate
34 committees of the Legislature by July 1, 2011.

35 (b) This chapter shall become inoperative on July 1, 2011, and
36 as of January 1, 2012, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute is
37 enacted before January 1, 2012, that deletes or extends the dates
38 on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

39 SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated fifty thousand dollars
40 (\$50,000) from the General Fund to the State Department of

- 1 Social Services to implement the foster care parent and child
- 2 home instruction and education pilot project in accordance with
- 3 Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 16040) of Part 4 of
- 4 Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

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